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New Books 1967

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Cover illustration: The fifteenth-century astronomer-philosopher depicted by Huaman Poma de Ayala was 150 years old, according to that chronicler of pre-Spanish Peru, had good eyes, ate as well as a young man, had never lost a tooth, and knew about the eclipse of the moon. From *Quipus and Witches' Knots*, by Cyrus Lawrence Day.

QUIPUS AND WITCHES' KNOTS: THE ROLE OF THE KNOT IN PRIMITIVE AND ANCIENT CULTURES

By Cyrus Lawrence Day

This essay in cultural anthropology provides a comprehensive view of the way primitive people in all parts of the world once utilized knots: mnemonic knots—to record dates, numbers, and cultural traditions; magic knots—to cure diseases, bewitch enemies, and control the forces of nature; and practical knots—to tie things and hold objects together.

In his discussion of mnemonic knots, the author analyzes the Peruvian quipus (knot-calendars and knot-records) and suggests that the Inca astronomer-priests, accurate observers of planetary movements, may also have been able to predict the dates of lunar eclipses; and he shows how it is possible to manipulate the Inca abacus in accordance with the decimal system. His treatment of magic knots includes curious examples of the supernatural power attributed to the Hercules (or square) knot in Egypt, Greece, and Rome. His analysis of a little-known treatise on surgeons' slings and nooses, written by the Greek physician Heraklas, is the first detailed account of the specific practical knots used by the ancient Greeks and Romans. *Quipus and Witches' Knots* often surprises the reader with the unexpected ways in which the dependence of men on knots has left its mark on the language, customs, and thought of all civilized peoples.

The author, Cyrus Lawrence Day, is Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Delaware. Besides several books concerned with English literature, Mr. Day is the author of a standard book on sailors' knots (*The Art of Knotting and Splicing*, U. S. Naval Institute, 1955). In *Quipus and Witches' Knots* he makes use both of his practical knowledge and his experience in scholarship and research.

about 160 pp., over 50 illus., notes, appendices, index.

LC No. 67-18736 August \$7.50

THE JOURNAL OF MARGARET HAZLITT:
RECOLLECTIONS OF ENGLAND, IRELAND,
AND AMERICA

Edited by Ernest J. Moyne

Margaret (the sister of William Hazlitt the essayist and critic) recalls the family's experiences, as her father sought a pastorate tolerant of his dissenting beliefs and his strong personality, and supplies an especially vivid description of a visit to North America from 1783 to 1787. Besides her journal—a valuable record of conditions immediately after the American Revolution—the book contains the Rev. Mr. Hazlitt's "An Account of the State of Rational Religion in America," a candid appraisal by one of the founders of modern Unitarianism.

The journal, written expressly for the information and instruction of her nephew William, son of the essayist, is the sole source of material concerning that writer's earliest years. Providing an account of the origin and history of the Hazlitt family, Margaret compiled from family papers and her own recollections, as well as those of her mother, a remarkable diary. Her main purpose in writing was to record the events of the Rev. Mr. Hazlitt's long and full life, which was devoted to the cause of liberty and truth. Some of his critical writings anticipate the work of his son William, and he has been described as "the parent of his son's genius."

Professor Moyne, a member of the English Department at the University of Delaware, found material pertinent to the journal in various libraries, museums, and archives in the United States, England, and Eire. His meticulous annotation adds interest to an account that is inherently charming, for Margaret wrote her diary in a straightforward, unaffected style which mirrors a talented and original intellect. The journal has never before been published in its entirety.

about 168 pp., appendices, notes, index.

LC No. 67-24358 August \$4.50

THOMAS P. GORE: THE BLIND SENATOR
FROM OKLAHOMA

By Monroe Lee Billington

This biography defines the part Senator Gore played in American political history, from his "first real public speech" at a Farmers' Alliance meeting in 1888, before he was eighteen years old, to his last race for the Senate in 1936, when he campaigned as an isolationist and conservative in opposition to the popular program of the New Deal. A Senator when Oklahoma joined the Union in 1907, Gore remained in office until 1921 and was re-elected for a final six-year term in 1930. His senatorial years corresponded with much of the Progressive Movement, World War I, the Depression, and the New Deal.

Gore's most tangible legislative contributions related to agriculture, Indians, and oil; but perhaps his most lasting contribution was the example of his life as an inspiration to the blind, for he rose above his handicap to fulfill a lifelong ambition to be a United States Senator. He believed that he had steered his political course by the "fixed star of principle," never by the "shooting stars of expediency," and he clung to his convictions whether they were popular or not and even though his motivations were often misconstrued.

Monroe Lee Billington, a professor of history at the University of Toledo, earned the M.A. degree at the University of Oklahoma, and the Ph.D. at the University of Kentucky. He has taught at the universities of South Dakota, Missouri, and Vienna. A native of Oklahoma, he first heard Senator Gore speak during the 1936 campaign. His interest in the blind politician and later study led him to write on the subject of this book and on other aspects of Southern history.

229 pp., notes, index. LC No. 67-14432

July \$5.50

BERNARD SHAW AND THE THEATER IN THE
NINETIES: A STUDY OF SHAW'S DRAMATIC
CRITICISM

By Harold Fromm

Using Shaw's dramatic criticism written during the nineties, his letters to actors and actresses, biographical materials, and the work of other critics, this book illuminates Shaw's role as a formal and an informal critic of nineteenth-century drama. The author has relied mainly on Shaw's own critical writing, allowing him to speak for himself, in his own incisive and witty manner.

Since Shaw's principles and standards, clearly stated in his critical writings, were maintained throughout his life, his early dramatic criticism may be regarded as a foundation on which everything characteristically Shavian was built. The judgments and pronouncements it contained were more vigorous and explicit than statements made on the same topics later. Although many books have been written on various aspects of Shaw's career and his plays, *Bernard Shaw and the Theater in the Nineties* gives the fullest consideration yet available of Shaw as dramatic critic. Providing a concise picture of a major era in British theater and of one of its chief representatives, the study incidentally throws light on Shaw's methods as a dramatist.

The author, Harold Fromm, completed work for his M.A. degree at Columbia University and for his Ph.D. degree at the University of Wisconsin. A long-standing delight in Shaw led to his investigation of that writer's years as dramatic critic for the *Saturday Review* in London.

about 250 pp., notes, index. LC No. 67-14430 July \$5.00

THE EARLIEST LIFE OF GREGORY THE GREAT
Edited by Bertram Colgrave

Gregory the Great, one of the most influential of world figures, who was the promoter of the first Christian mission to England, became the subject of what may be the earliest extant writing from Old English times, the *Life* written by an unknown monk of Whitby. Lack of a careful edition of this work has been a notable gap in Early English studies, for among its claims to historical interest are that it was a source of two important medieval biographies of Gregory and of two famous medieval legends. It casts light on English history during the seventh century, especially religious history, containing the earliest statement known in Western Europe of the formula used in administering communion. This critical, annotated edition by a well-known authority on saints' lives contains a text of the Latin edition with an accurate English translation on facing pages and an illuminating Introduction discussing the historical background and the date and authorship of the work and supplying other relevant information.

The editor, Bertram Colgrave, holds degrees from Cambridge and two other English universities, including an honorary D. Litt. from Durham University, where from 1920 to 1955 he was a member of the English Department. He has been a visiting professor at the universities of North Carolina, Texas, Colorado, and Kansas and at Mount Holyoke College. He has been Chief Editor of *Early English Manuscripts in Facsimile* and has edited for the Cambridge University Press Lives of Sts. Wilfred, Cuthbert, and Guthlac, besides contributing articles and reviews to English, Continental, and American periodicals.

about 192 pp., notes, index. LC No. 67-24360 September \$6.00

FOLKTALE AND HERO-TALE MOTIFS IN THE
ODES OF PINDAR

By Mary A. Grant

Hitherto no systematic attempt has been made to analyze the motifs of myth in any one classical author. This book makes such an attempt for one of the most challenging of ancient authors, Pindar, arranging its material to fit motifs of the hero tale as formulated by folklorists and classifying other motifs in accordance with the types used in Stith Thompson's *Motif-Index of Folk-Literature*. To throw into sharper relief Pindar's modification of myths, the author brings into the comparison the tales of a society more primitive than that of the ancient Greeks, that of the American Indians. Besides adducing new evidence on the relation between folktale and myth, the book casts light on Pindar's adaptation of his basic material, as well as on the vigor and imaginative power of certain widely disseminated stories.

Miss Mary Grant, now in retirement following many years as a member of the Department of Classics and Classical Archaeology at the University of Kansas, after graduating from the University continued her studies at Bryn Mawr and at the University of Wisconsin, where she obtained her Ph.D. degree in 1919. She held a Traveling Fellowship from the University of Wisconsin to the American Academy in Rome in 1919-20. Her six trips to Rome, Athens, and the Middle East have included a summer at the American School of Athens in 1936. One result of her long-lived interest in mythology was her *Myths of Hyginus*, the translation and edition published by the University of Kansas Press in 1960. Aside from her publications in scholarly series that have included the *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology*, she is the author of poems appearing in the *Atlantic Monthly*, several of them with a background of classical myth.

about 190 pp., notes, biblio., index.

LC No. 67-24359 September \$4.00

THE CAECILIANS OF THE WORLD:
A TAXONOMIC REVIEW

By Edward Harrison Taylor

This book is a taxonomic study of the Gymnophiona, the least known of all large ordinal groups of vertebrates with the exception of certain orders of deep-sea fish. The subterranean habitat of caecilians makes collection of specimens difficult, with the result that only a few museums have adequate series of specimens, and a remarkable number of species are known from only one or two examples. Illustrated with about 425 drawings and photographs and accompanied by tables as well as keys to genera and families, descriptions in this volume cover 160 species and subspecies, including a number of new forms.

E. H. Taylor, now Professor Emeritus of Zoology at the University of Kansas, has been connected with that university for more than fifty years. The author of an impressive number of books and articles on amphibians and reptiles of the United States, Mexico, Central America, Thailand, and the Philippines, he has also served and been recognized for his services by governments in his own country and abroad.

When he was chief of the Division of Fisheries of the Philippine Islands, the author saw and held his first caecilian. "To me," he writes, "this strange animal had a superficial appearance of nothing so much as an earthworm with a backbone!" During almost half a century following this introduction, the author has pursued the study and collection of caecilians around the world. He has spent many years in the Philippine Islands, southeast Asia, Mexico, and Central America. A National Science Foundation grant enabled him to travel extensively from 1961 to 1965 in order to examine the specimens of caecilians in many museums in Europe, Africa, Asia, and South America.

about 900 pp., illus., tables, notes, index.

LC No. 67-14429 September \$20.00

PROPERTY LAW INDICTED!

By *W. Barton Leach*

The lectures comprising the substance of this volume were delivered at the University of Kansas by the Story Professor of Law at the Harvard Law School. This informal survey of the pitfalls of property law and their possible remedies is enlivened by many piquant examples. In his chosen field of reform (property law, especially the Rule against Perpetuities), Professor Leach has already influenced legal changes in eight states and three British overseas dominions. It is his thesis that, legislatures having failed to act, the courts must provide curative reforms and that such overruling decisions could safely be made without upsetting currently vested interests acquired in reliance on past decisions.

94 pp., notes, index. LC No. 67-14431 \$2.25

ESSAYS IN PALEONTOLOGY AND STRATIGRAPHY

Edited by *Curt Teichert and Ellis L. Yochelson*

The essays in the R. C. Moore Commemorative Volume present, as a whole, an assessment of the status of stratigraphic paleontology, a field in which Professor Moore has made his greatest contributions. With 180 illustrations and numerous tables, the volume represents the work of thirty-one contributors on the subjects of Nomenclature and Taxonomy, Paleontology and Biostratigraphy, Sedimentation and Paleoecology, Stratigraphy and Correlation. The book was edited by Curt Teichert, Regents Distinguished Professor of Geology, University of Kansas, and Ellis L. Yochelson of the United States Geological Survey, Washington.

626 pp., illus., ref., notes, indices. LC No. 67-14428 \$15.00

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